

SKATE FATE

interview

**lance
mountain**



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ON THE FRONT: Lance Mountain, interviewed this issue, is shown returning a channel invert to fakie. Photo by Hans Gothberg, in Sweden.





LANCE MOUNTAIN

We don't know if he's one of the best because maybe he is the best. But maybe the best doesn't matter. Whatever, when Lance Mountain touches down after drifting 7-8 ft. backwards on a 2 ft. high alley cop, one can't help but wonder.

He walks around and does things and when he gets on his board, it's all over.

-Neil Blender

This is a typical quote from one of Lance's peers. Lance was bred almost entirely on the concrete terrain of the 1970's skatepark scene and is now a definite stand-out on the masonite vertical arenas here in the almost late 1980's. He shows enthusiasm toward skating like few others and takes hardly a thing so serious. And if you don't believe that, what we'll do is this: we'll just go and each fasten a brand new pair of slide rails on our street decks and then we'll go to the nearest painted curb and have a slide-h-roll contest.

What are you going to make your new ramp like?

Sweden. We're going to make big transitions, 10 ft. of transitions, maybe 10 ft. with a foot of vertical.

Why?

Because we are going to be the best skateboarders in the world! (Laughs)

So, you're not going to tear your old ramp apart?

I'm going to build over the top of it. I'm going to cut it in half and move it out because it's going to have 2 more ft. of transition so it's going to meet at the bottom closer but I still want 12 ft. of flat so I will move it out 2 ft. on each side, which would be 4 ft.

What does all of this do? Is it better?

When you bail, you can just walk down the wall and you can learn tricks easier and you can do anything on it because you have so much wall to land on.

Will any one person help?

No one will help. They will show up the day I'm building the coping down. They'll come in there with their spce pads on. Oh, can we help?

How do you like Powell?

Powell's good.



What about this model crap?

I don't know. I think I'm getting a board.

What's going to be on it?

It's not going to have graphics on it. Instead of like a monster or dragon it's going to have like a design.

You mean like Allen Look Letter?

Yeah. Something like that. Letters and colors and lines and circles. It's going to come out before Christmas, and my real board is going to come out after Christmas.

Are they going to be the same?

No, the one after Christmas is going to have a new shape, a new concave, a new tail, new graphics. It's going to be different.

Is either one of them going to have a new shape? Or will they be traditions?

The one before Christmas will have to be the same shape as the Rat Board. The new one's probably going to be a trend shape, so it will sell. So it will probably be a trend shape for 6 months until trend shapes go out.

When did you start skating?

I started in the 4th grade.

What year was that?

10 years ago, on clay wheels and trucks that didn't have a nose on a board that didn't have a nose.

What about parks?

There wasn't any parks. We skated backyard pools and a ramp.

Before parks?

Yeah, there wasn't any parks open until Montebello, which was about a year and a half after I started skating.

What did you do in that backyard pool?

We looked at it. We carried it, we got knickers on the light. We catenarated it, up to the light.

Then Montebello?

Then we built my ramp in '79. It had 8 ft. of flat bottom. It had rollout decks. It was down the hill at my friend's house, but in '80 he had to move it because he was adding on to his house. So, we put it on my dad's truck, we drug





EXTENDED MOUNT ON A 4 FT. HIGH STREET RAMP. FROM: JCB

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it up to my house and rolled it down my hill into my back yard (laughter). Then we added on to it. We learned taps, we learned how to drop in, and in '79 I went and skated England. Then we moved it when I got back from England. Then I started skating periods and I entered a contest at Lakewood and got 2nd. Then I said: "Hmmm... I'll start skating parks!" So then I started skating Whittier all the time and skated for Whittier's team.

Did you ever jump the channel in the capsule?

Yeah, I jumped the channel.

Name some of the wildest things that happened at Whittier.

Oh, you don't want to hear! There was a guy who used to work there and I shot him in the face with a 8-8 gun from about 2 ft. away with a bunch of ice, and I fired it and there was about 10 streams of blood pouring down his face. Neil Blender threw a wheel through a glass case once. He was testing the rebound of it. One day, the owner's son, Angelo, skated naked in one of the peanut bowls.

Where did you get the idea for LUMP magazine? From Thrasher?

No. No and Neil just said: "We should make a magazine because we liked to draw and stuff." So we made the magazine but it wasn't worth making (after 2 issues) because Whittier wouldn't give us any more money. Whittier would pay for it and then we'd get the profits! (laughter).

What else?

In the summer, we'd fill up the little bowls and have fish. One summer we had ducks. One day, I came to work and there was a chopped up dog in the free-style reservoir. Once, we tied up this little kid named Mark Poots and put him in a trash can and dropped him into the key-hole! (laughter). And we let him stay down there because he was all taped up. He couldn't get out of the pool.

What foods do you like?

Easily fixed ones. Quannitues, pot pies, microwaved foods, Sizzler.

Do you like T.V.?

No. Except David Letterman, Get Smart, Wild West.

What was the raddest trick you ever saw?

Bunny out of the hat trick. 240 airs.

What do you think of authority?

Authority will always be there. Someone will always be over you, just accept it.

Do you like skate rags?

Usually, if they don't involve music. I enjoy reading them.

Do you like banks and streets?

Yes. You can ride them any time you want.

What else is fun?

Traveling, meeting different people.

Is there a plan?

To rebuild every ramp with big transitions. Jackhammer Del Mar.

Tell young people something.

Stay away from crowds when you're in high school or you will become lame just like the others.

Who do you like to skate with?

Skateboarders, Allen Losi.

What do you think of the straight edge?

It's nothing. It's just a clique. No one knows what it's really supposed to be. They say it's not drinking or smoking and that's not what it really is anyway. It just makes some feel accepted. Just like anything else.

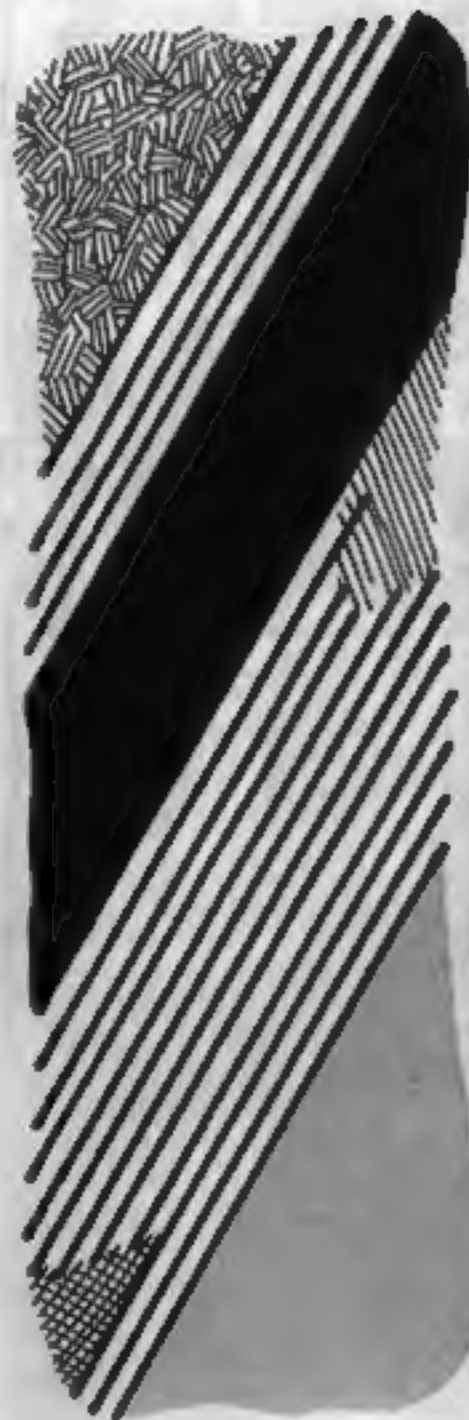
Do you drink, smoke or take drugs?

No.

What is bad?

Celery and milk together, heel bruises, nails that stick up on ramps, most girls, new hair cuts, controlled contests, tumble weeds in winter, punk turning into heavy metal instead of being good like the other bands, egotistical lame art directors improving their portfolios on skateboarding's time and money, new or old skateboard companies making junk and money, Datsun, Knott's Berry Farm on Mondays, holes in the toes of your socks.

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How did you get on Veriflex?

One day I was at Upland skating before a contest and my board got stolen, so Steve Hirsch let me ride his board. So, I liked it and I rode good, I rode better so I bought some Veriflex wheels and got all Veriflexed out. And the next contest at Colton I got on Veriflex.

Did they ever do anything good for you?

Yeah, when Mr. Losi ren it, it was great. I never would have changed teams or anything.

Then what happened?

Skateboarding went down and Mr. Losi wasn't really happy with it, so he wanted to do something he enjoyed, so he took up little cars and stuff.

Then what happened to Veriflex?

Well, his brother took care of it and his brother didn't really care about skating or nothing so they just went to poop. I entered about a year's worth of contests as amateur and they never even paid or anything.

What broke the straw?

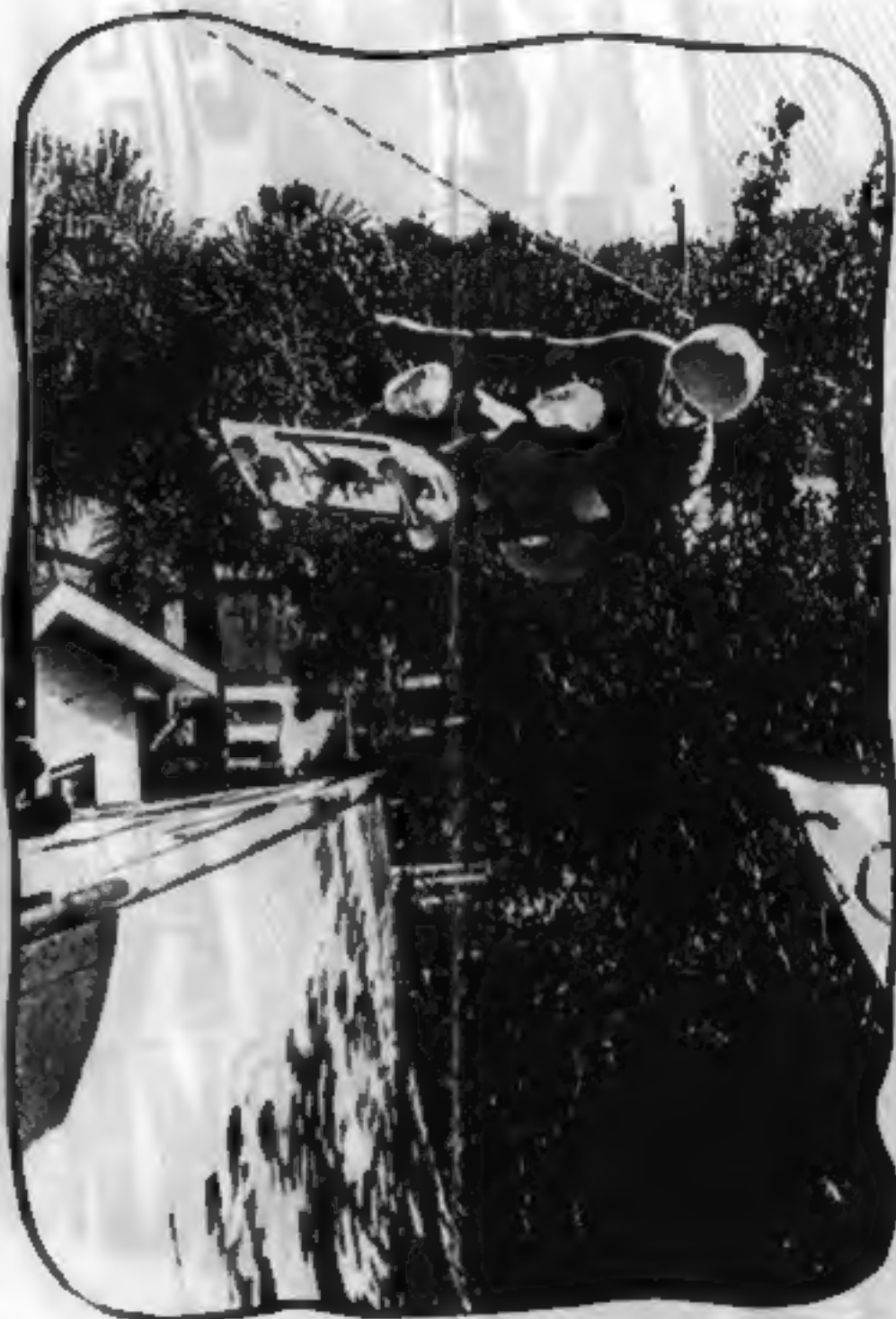
Well, I was working there and I wondered how many boards they had sold a month. And I looked at some records they got, how many boards they ordered and stuff, and I found that they hadn't paid me for all my boards, and they just didn't care. I just got bummed at skating so I just quit skating. I quit Veriflex, I quit working there, I just quit. I wasn't really going to skate, then Stacy said, "Do you want to be on the team?" Then I got on Powell and my life's been up hill ever since.

Are you happy?

Yes.

Are you married?

Yes.



THIS WAS THE BOARD THAT WAS BY ANOTHER MAG. LANCE, A LITTLE COMPLETE RIDE TOP LEFT AND AT SAINT PETERS. PHOTO: BOB MARTIN

WILLBLENDE KOVACH KEVIN LASTAR



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